200.0 lakh ha from 186.3 lakh ha during this period. During the current year the production of oilseeds are likely to reach a record level, as a result of various measures taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Subsidy to fertilizer industry

*330. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly Rs. 3000 crores are given as subsidy to fertilizer sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that this subsidy helps only industry and big farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to reduce the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The principle underlying the Retention Price and Subsidy Scheme is to protect the interest of farmers by making available fertilizers at uniform notified prices which they can afford and at the same time to ensure reasonable return on investment to the manufacturers and thus facilitate the growth of fertiliser industry.

With a view to reducing subsidy on indigenous fertilisers, differential levels of capacity utilisation and longer economic life of plant and machinery have been assumed for fixing the retention prices for the fifth pricing period commencing from 1-4-1988.

Sale of additional items through the outlets of PDS

*331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the State Governments to explore the possibilities of selling additional items through the outlets of the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the State of Madhya Pradesh have accepted the recommendation and have raised additional essential items for distribution in the fair price shops; and

(c) if so, what are the items that were so increased and whether the supplies of these items were also made available to the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that it distributes Jowar and Maiza depending on their availability The State Government procures these items on their own.

Collaboration in seed development

*332. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for grant of technical/financial collaboration involving foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment basis separately in seed development;

(b) whether approval of the Department of Bio-technology is required for such collaboation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the authority which approves collaboration referred to above and the formalities required from Indian companies/firms for allowing such collaboration

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The production of certified high yielding hybrid seeds and hybrids of plantlets developed through plants tissue culture has been recognised as a high technology area, and has been included in 1986, in the Appendix-I to Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for participation by MRTP/FERA companies. The usual norms and conditions laid down by